Opting out of joint venture by foreign companies

4162. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain foreign companies are opting out of the joint venture in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of companies opted out during the last one year;

(d) the steps Government propose to take so that joint ventures are not allowed to scrap the agreement even before their taking off;

(e) the financial implications on the exchequer because of such fallouts and how Government plan to recover such losses; and

(f) how much funds are being flown in this way?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (f) The Department of Company Affairs does not maintain information in respect of joint ventures by foreign companies.

Recommendations for filling the vacancies of Judges in High Courts

4163. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged the Chief Justices of High Courts and Governors of States to send recommendations for filling the vacancies of Judges in High Courts as also for vacancies due to arise in the next six months;

(b) if so, whether delay on the part of CJs and concerned State Governments have created backlog in filling up the vacancies in High Courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government in its letter of March 15, 2002, has requested the Chief Justices of High Court, Chief Ministers and Governors of States to make recommendation for filling up the existing as well as anticipated vacancies of Judges in the High Court expeditiously. As on May 02, 2002, against the approved Judge strength of 647 (including 43 new posts) of the High courts, there were 492 Judges in position leaving 155 posts vacant. The

Government has received 50 proposals from the Chief Justices of the High Courts for filling up existing vacancies in the respective High Courts.

Setting up of Family Courts in every district

4164. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Human Resource Development has recommended to his Ministry for setting up a Family Court in every district considering huge pending cases in courts;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Madam.

Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women & Child Development) in their O.M. of April 17, 2002 have forwarded suggestion from the National Commission for Women that a Plan Scheme may be launched to provide 100 per cent financial assistance by way of grant-in-aid may be provided to the State Governments for the setting up of Family Courts.

Earlier, the Parliamentary committee on Empowerment of Women in its Fifth Report on "Functioning of Family Courts" has recommended that steps should be taken to set up Family Courts in every district of the country.

(b) and (c) On the Basis of recommendation made by the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women, the matter has been taken up with all the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up more Family Courts to speed up disposal of family disputes. In order to encourage and assist the States in setting up more Family Courts, fifty percent Central grant is being extended to them for the establishment and running of new Family Courts which are now being set up during the year 2002-2003.